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Balantak language

Balantak is an Austronesian language spoken at the head of the eastern peninsula of Sulawesi. It is classified as a member of the Saluan-Banggai branch of the Celebic subgroup. The Balantak language is the primary language of the Balantak people. Although 90% of the population are also proficient in Indonesian, the vernacular is still vigorously used in everyday contexts, and most children only speak Balantak before entering school.[3]

Balantak	
Wurung Balantak	
Native to	Indonesia
Region	Sulawesi
Ethnicity	Balantak people
Native speakers	30,000 (2000)[1]
Language family	Austronesian ▪ Malayo-Polynesian ▪ Celebic ▪ Saluan-Banggai ▪ Eastern ▪ **Balantak**
Language codes	
ISO 639-3	`blz`
Glottolog	`bala1315 (http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/bala1315)`[2]

Phonology

Balantak has the following phoneme inventory:[3]

Consonants

		Labial	Alveolar	Palatal	Velar	Glottal
Plosive	**voiceless**	p	t		k	ʔ
	voiced	b	d		g	
Fricative			s			(h)
Affricate				(t͡ʃ)/(d͡ʒ)		
Lateral			l			
Trill			r			
Approximant		w		j		

- /ŋ/ is written ⟨ng⟩
- /j/ is written ⟨y⟩
- /ʔ/ is written ⟨'⟩
- /t͡ʃ/ and /d͡ʒ/ are written ⟨c⟩ and ⟨j⟩, and only occur in loanwords.
- /h/ only occurs in loanwords

Vowels

	Front	Central	Back
High	i		u
Mid	ɛ		ɔ
Low		a	

- /ɛ/ is written ⟨o⟩
- /ɔ/ is written ⟨e⟩

Sequences of like vowels are phonetically realized as long vowels, e.g. *toop* [tɔːp] 'cigarette', *nuur* [nuːr] 'coconut'.

References

1. Balantak (https://www.ethnologue.com/18/language/blz/) at *Ethnologue* (18th ed., 2015)
2. Hammarström, Harald; Forkel, Robert; Haspelmath, Martin, eds. (2017). "Balantak" (http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/bala1315). *Glottolog 3.0*. Jena, Germany: Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History.
3. René, van den Berg; Busenitz, Robert L. (2012). *A grammar of Balantak: A language of eastern Sulawesi* (http://www.sil.org/resources/publications/entry/49492). SIL e-Books, 40. Dallas: SIL International.

External links

- "Balantak" (http://wals.info/languoid/lect/wals_code_blk), at *World Atlas of Language Structures*

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